



Legislative Research Council

MINUTES

Legislative Planning Committee

Representative Scott Munsterman, Chair
Senator Mike Vehle, Vice Chair

Fourth Meeting
2015 Interim
December 7, 2015

Room 413
State Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota

The fourth meeting of the Legislative Planning Committee for the 2015 interim was called to order by **Representative Scott Munsterman, Chair**, at 10:00 a.m. (CST), on Monday, December 7, 2015.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering the roll call: Representative Scott Munsterman, Chair; Senator Mike Vehle, Vice Chair; Senators Corey Brown, Terri Haverly, Ried Holien, Scott Parsley (via telephone); Representatives Kristin Conzet, Jacqueline Sly and Dean Wink. Excused: Representative Shawn Bordeaux.

Staff members present included Clare Charlson, Principal Research Analyst; David Ortbahn, Chief Analyst of Research and Legal Services; Jason Simmons, Fiscal Analyst; and Rena Ortbahn, Legislative Secretary.

NOTE: For purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. Also, all referenced documents distributed at the meeting are attached to the original minutes on file in the Legislative Research Council (LRC) and some documents can be found on the LRC website at: <http://legis.sd.gov>.

Efforts to Enhance Educational Opportunities for Adult Inmates

Ms. Jennifer Stanwick-Klimek, Deputy Warden, Mike Durfee State Prison, and Ms. Tiffany Sanderson, Director, Division of Career and Technical Education, SD Department of Education, jointly appeared before the committee. They discussed how the two departments can work together to provide inmates with further opportunities to pursue career and technical education.

Ms. Sanderson shared that on the national level, it has been proven that comprehensive correctional education programs are cost effective; there is a savings of five dollars in re-incarceration costs for every dollar spent on correctional education. It can lower recidivism rates and increase the odds of post-release employment by twenty-eight percent. Ms. Sanderson explained a comprehensive correctional education program could potentially reduce the South Dakota recidivism rate by ten percent. A comprehensive approach addresses the needs of the whole person from education to support services and transition support.

Ms. Stanwick-Klimek said it will be a long-term project to provide a comprehensive correctional education program in South Dakota. She stressed there are different educational needs for male and female offenders, and there will be a continued need for adult basic education, General Educational Development (GED), and work-readiness programs. She said only offering a technical education program to an inmate will not address the underlying reasons for which the inmate was incarcerated.

Representative Munsterman said he can understand that a comprehensive approach makes sense if through that approach, there is a greater chance of reducing recidivism. He asked what it would mean

for South Dakota in terms of cost savings. Ms. Stanwick-Klimek replied that even one percent of inmates not coming back into the correctional system would be a savings; recidivism is volatile and the Department of Corrections cannot predict the potential recidivism reduction that might result from a comprehensive program. She added that high-risk offenders, if taught a job skill, may be re-incarcerated later versus sooner, which would be considered a success.

Ms. Stanwick-Klimek said that with two thousand transfers within the corrections system in any given month, it will be difficult to identify programs that offenders can complete prior to being transferred. Transfers also limit the number of offenders who may be available for a certain program. Ms. Sanderson explained that any program would have to be less than one year in length and align with workforce needs.

Senator Haverly asked why it is so difficult to expand vocational education. Ms. Stanwick-Klimek responded that they start with more than 3,500 offenders, and after looking at different factors, this number is narrowed down dramatically. Secondly, they examine if there are qualified offenders to put in a program and if that program aligns with workforce needs. When an offender is released, the Department of Corrections cannot dictate employment, so the offender must be interested in the education pursued. Also it is more difficult to bring vocational training to higher custody level inmates because of security and transfer issues. Offering education online in corrections is difficult and presents security and network accessibility challenges. Presently there is no financial aid for inmates seeking a postsecondary education, and since many minimum security inmates are employed, it would be difficult for them to transfer to a postsecondary technical program.

Ms. Stanwick-Klimek commented that the existing technical programs at the Mike Durfee State Prison are not full. She thinks these programs should be evaluated as to their cost and return on investment so the curriculum can be aligned with what is needed before bringing in any new programs.

Ms. Sanderson said currently if inmates complete a technical program, they get certificates of completion. It needs to be determined how these programs can meet industry standards so that inmates can earn industry recognized certification.

Representative Munsterman noted that correctional education is part of a whole person plan that provides a bridge for released inmates into the economy. He encouraged Ms. Sanderson and Ms. Stanwick-Klimek to move forward on developing a comprehensive model for South Dakota including the cost and potential return, with the final outcome being a decrease in the recidivism rate.

Senator Brown suggested that perhaps a draft comprehensive plan with cost estimates could be presented to the committee next summer. Ms. Stanwick-Klimek suggested it will involve a lot of moving pieces and a more in-depth analysis is needed. Senator Brown concluded it will probably require two or three phases; phase one could be an assessment of current programs, and perhaps the goal for next summer would be to get that in place.

Senator Vehle said to keep in mind that the outcome is to reduce recidivism. He is interested in outcomes and not output, and he wants to be able to determine if an agency is meeting its outcome goals.

Senator Brown asked whether there is a potential for inmates to be eligible for the Build Dakota scholarships. Ms. Sanderson said this could be a part of the phase one discussion.

Representative Munsterman noted that he is satisfied with the postsecondary technical education benchmarks that were presented at the prior meeting, and Ms. Sanderson said the institutes will provide the benchmarks to the committee in a more condensed format.

SD Department of Health Strategic Plan and Performance Measures

Ms. Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Secretary, SD Department of Health, presented the department's strategic five-year plan. She set forth the department's vision, mission, and guiding principles in five goals, with objectives and key performance indicators for each goal. (**Documents 1, 2, 3, and 4**)

The Legislative Planning Committee had requested key dashboard indicators, which could be used to monitor the outcomes of Department of Health programs. Ms. Malsam-Rysdon presented five key performance dashboards. These dashboards set target outcomes for increasing adult routine check-ups, decreasing infant mortality, decreasing adult smoking, increasing childhood vaccinations, and decreasing suicides. She explained these indicators were selected based on their significance and impact on population health.

Ms. Malsam-Rysdon explained that the key indicator outcomes with links to the five-year strategic plan will be available online. She said through this framework the department will communicate the importance of the issues and use the data to guide the department.

Ms. Malsam-Rysdon responded to committee questions. She said vaccinations are encouraged, and if people aren't vaccinated, it is not usually a cost issue. She pointed out that these dashboards are very outcome-oriented. When asked what impact Medicaid expansion would have on the key indicator outcomes, Ms. Malsam-Rysdon noted that Medicaid expansion would probably not detract from outcomes, but only help.

Responding to Senator Vehle, Ms. Malsam-Rysdon said she is comfortable putting forth these indicators, but that it might not be fair to judge the department just on those five key indicators since there are twenty-two other performance indicators included within the strategic plan that the department tracks to determine progress in each goal area. Representative Munsterman remarked that the five dashboard indicators are important to the committee, and the other twenty-two can be seen online.

Ms. Malsam-Rysdon explained that routine check-ups are basic and that other areas of the plan depend on them. She said that the Native American population lacks access to specialty care, and access, when available, is often delayed.

Representative Munsterman stressed that clinicians need to be taught that they have to teach preventative health to patients, and he wants the department to pursue this.

Wrap-up

Senator Vehle would like to see the process of establishing dashboard indicators implemented in more departments. Representative Munsterman agreed and said some departments have already started thinking this way. He said in the future the Legislative Planning Committee may be challenged to also focus on accountabilities.

Senator Brown suggested it would be helpful to have two or three departments in mind that the committee would like to work with next year. He said since the legislature is looking at shortening the timeline for budget hearings, there is consequently a need for someone to be looking at goals, and perhaps this committee can help to review and refine those goals.

Committee members suggested the Department of Transportation, the Secretary of State, the Department of Education, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development as possible departments or entities that could participate in the process in the future.

Representative Munsterman stated he will assist staff in preparing a report for the Executive Board on the benchmarks and performance indicators reviewed by the committee this year. He said the committee will not meet during session, but will continue next summer.

Approval of Minutes and Adjournment

SENATOR HOLIEN MOVED, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE CONZET, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2015 MEETING. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

SENATOR HOLIEN MOVED, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE CONZET, TO ADJOURN. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Senator Munsterman adjourned the committee at 3:00 p.m.

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